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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/594,490	09/27/2006	Yong Jiang	NL040319US1	1319
24738 7590 07/30/2008 PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS PO BOX 3001 BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510-8001				
EXAMINER				
IZAGUIRRE, ISMAEL				
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3765				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/594,490

Applicant(s)

JIANG ET AL.

Examiner

Ismael Izaguirre

Art Unit

3765

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/88)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/27/06
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

SPECIFICATION

Abstract

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because of its length. An Abstract should be limited to no more than 150. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Headings

Applicant is asked to take note the preferred arrangement and headings directed to a specification: except for the title, each of the lettered items should preferably be preceded by the headings indicated below.

- (a) Cross-Reference to Related Application(s) (if any).
- (b) Background of the Invention.
 - 1. Field of the Invention (or Technical Field).
 - 2. Description of the Related Art (or Background Information or Background Art)
- (c) Summary of the Invention (or Disclosure of Invention).
- (d) Brief Description of the Drawing(s).
- (e) Description of the Preferred Embodiment(s)
- (f) Claim(s).
- (g) Abstract of the Disclosure (or Abstract).

Providing the above would place the specification in accordance with the suggestions of those portions of MPEP §§ 601 or 608.01 concerning "proper headings".

CLAIMS

Summary

Claim 1 is the independent claim under consideration in this Office Action.

Claims 2-13 are the dependent claims under consideration in this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Referring to the claim, the phrase "such as" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) The invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4 and 6-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Herrmann (4,594,800).

Herrmann teaches a steam conditioning device consisting of a steam iron for removing wrinkles from an article. The iron includes a housing and steam handling chamber with a tortuous path for the steam to follow and steam outlets for expelling the steam onto the article. Herrmann teaches a soleplate forming the steam conditioning

device and including at least one steam outlet 16 (figure 3, for example). A steam supply directing means 6 is provided for directing a steam flow toward the outlet including the steam flow path. Vortex generating members are provided all along the path for causing pressure differences or vortices in the steam flow. The flow path includes baffles; see for example the cross section of figure 3 where the baffles are the walls between 13, 3 and 12, 4, for example. Vortices are formed in at least two planes in pluralities of channels. They are formed along a horizontal plane as the steam follows the contours horizontally through the staggered channels (channel 12, 13 and 14, for example of figure 2) and then vortices are formed along a vertical plane as the steam passes over the top of the channels through the connecting channels 23. The channels include raised portions with oblique walls 14 and means for directing the steam over the top of the wall into the next channel. The channels and steam is being moved along the steam path by the pressure exerted on the steam against the walls and since the channels themselves are heated by electrical heater 17.

Claims 1-5 and 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bouleau et al. (5,979,089).

Bouleau et al. teach a steam conditioning device consisting of a steam iron for removing wrinkles from an article. The iron includes two independent steam chambers, each with a tortuous path for the steam to follow and steam outlets for expelling the steam onto the article. Bouleau et al. teach a soleplate forming the steam conditioning device and including steam outlets for each steam generating chamber (figure 4, for example). A directing means (taught as a first injection means (column 2, line 44) is

provided for directing water to a first steam generation chamber which produces steam and where that steam flows toward the outlets through a steam flow path. Vortex generating members are provided all along the path for causing pressure differences or vortices in the steam flow. The flow path includes baffles and staggered flow paths and channel segments which interrupt the flow of steam and open in a flow path upstream direction, as at 71. The channels allow the steam to move towards the outlets since the soleplate and steam chambers are heated by electrical heater 18.

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Walker et al. (4,077,143).

Walker et al. teach a steam conditioning device consisting of a steam iron for removing wrinkles from an article. The iron includes two independent steam chambers. One is a main steam chamber (at 24) which is fed water by a directing means 46 and the other is fed water by the surge pumping directing means 52. Each has a tortuous path for the steam to follow and steam outlets for expelling the steam onto the article. Walter et al. teach a soleplate forming the steam conditioning device and including steam outlets 12, for example. Vortex generating members are provided all along the path for causing pressure differences or vortices in the steam flow. The flow path includes baffles 58 and staggered flow paths and channel segments which interrupt the flow of steam and open in a flow path upstream direction, as at 54. Vortices are formed in at least two planes in pluralities of channels. They are formed along a horizontal plane as the steam follows the contours horizontally through the staggered channels at 62 and then vortices are formed along a vertical plane as the steam passes first under

the over the top of the channels 50 and 24. The channels at 50 and 24 (figure 2) include raised portions with oblique walls 14 and means for directing the steam over the top of the wall into the next channel. The channels and steam is being moved along the steam path by the pressure exerted on the steam against the walls and since the channels themselves are heated by electrical heater 18.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker et al. in view of Adlay Lesaga.

Walker et al. disclose the invention substantially as claimed. See above for specific explanations of the structural details of this document. Briefly, Walker et al. teach a steam iron including two steam generation chambers and vortex generating structure for the steam flow. However, Walker et al. do not suggest providing a separate heating means for each steam chamber.

Adlay Lesaga teaches a steam iron including two steam generation chambers and where each chamber is provided with a separate heating means 2 and 7. The temperature of each chamber is also controlled for optimizing the steam production.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to construct the steam iron of Walker et al. as including a separately controllable heating element for each chamber. Providing such an arrangement would assure the optimum amount and quality of steam for application to the article being ironed.

DRAWINGS

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the ironing board and facial steamer of claim 10 must be shown or the feature cancelled from the claim. No new matter should be entered.

PERTINENT CITATIONS

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Gomersall and Marvin et al. illustrate vortex generating means within soleplates of irons. Viecei illustrates steam outlets including directional steam flow paths. Shimizu et al. and Hoefer et al. illustrate directing means including sprayers. Kircher and Chasen illustrate steam iron with double heaters for the steam forming chambers and the soleplates.

INQUIRIES

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ismael Izaguirre whose telephone number is (571) 272-4987. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30-6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Welch can be reached on (571) 272-4996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ismael Izaguirre/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3765